

Handwritten signature/initials

00684.003266



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Takeshi Yasumoto, et al.)
Application No.: 09/978,213)
Filed: October 17, 2001)
For: Driving Force)
Transmission)
Mechanism, Image)
Forming Apparatus)
Equipped With Such A)
Mechanism, and)
Process Unit Of Such)
An Apparatus)
Examiner: S. Brase
Group Art Unit: 2852
May 6, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SECOND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each of the listed documents is also enclosed. The non-English language document was recently cited in a People's Republic of China Office Action, issued in a foreign counterpart application, mailed on February 13, 2004. A copy of a translation of the Office Action is attached.

The concise explanation of relevance of the non-English language document is found in the attached English translation of the People's Republic of China Office Action. In addition, the cited U.S. patents are in the same patent family as the non-English language document, as shown on the enclosed printout of the patent family.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

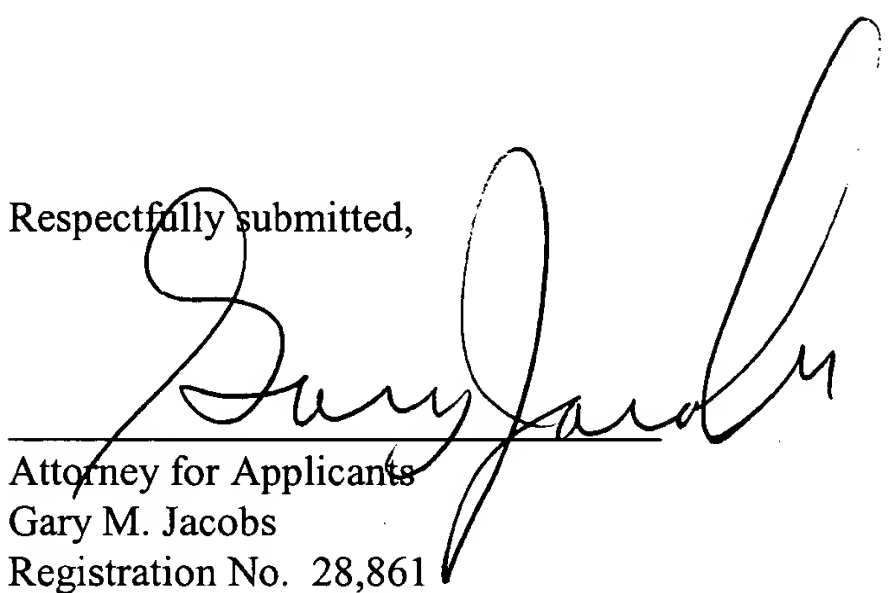
Each item of information in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Statement.

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner and that an annotated copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned with the next official communication indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

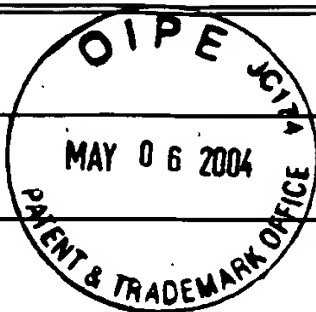
Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
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GMJ/smj

DC_MAIN 130489 v 1

FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> Date submitted to the PTO: May 6, 2004		ATTY DOCKET NO. 00684.003266	APPLICATION NO. 09/978,213			
		APPLICANT TAKESHI YASUMOTO, ET AL.				
		FILING DATE October 17, 2001		GROUP 2852		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		5,903,803	5/11/99	KAWAI, ET AL.	399	116	
		6,128,454	10/3/00	KAWAI, T AL.	399	116	
		6,226,478	5/1/01	WATANABE, ET AL.	399	117	
		6,349,188	2/19/02	KAWAI, ET AL.	399	116	
		6,501,926	12/31/02	WANATABE, ET AL.	399	117	
		6,501,927	12/31/02	WATANABE, ET AL.	399	117	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		1164052A	11/5/97	People's Repub. of China			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

GMJ/smj

Sheet 1 of 1

THE PATENT OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Address: 6 Xi Tu Cheng Lu, Haidian, Beijing

Post Code: 100088

Applicant:	CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA	Date of Notification: Date: <u>13</u> Month: <u>2</u> Year: <u>2004</u>
Attorney:	Wang Jinglin	
Application No.:	No. 01143320.5	
Title of the Invention:	DRIVING FORCE TRANSMISSION MECHANISM, IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS EQUIPPED WITH SUCH A MECHANISM, AND PROCESS UNIT OF SUCH AN APPARATUS	

Notification of the First Office Action

1. ☒ The applicant requested examination as to substance on _____ and examination has been carried out on the above-identified patent application for invention under Article 35(1) of the Patent Law of the People's Republic of China(hereinafter referred to as "the Patent Law").
☐ The Chinese Patent Office has decided to examine the application on its own initiative under Article 35(2) of the Patent Law.
2. ☒ The applicant claimed priority/priorities based on the application(s):
filed in JP on Oct. 20, 2000, filed in _____ on _____,
filed in _____ on _____, filed in _____ on _____,
filed in _____ on _____, filed in _____ on _____,
☒ The applicant has provided the priority documents certified by the Patent Office where the priority application(s) was/were filed.
☐ The applicant has not provided the priority documents certified by the Patent Office where the priority application(s) was/were filed and therefore the priority claim(s) is/are deemed not to have been made under Article 30 of the Patent Law.
☐ The application is a PCT continuation.
3. ☐ The applicant submitted amendments to the application on _____ and on _____, wherein the amended _____ submitted on _____ and the amended _____ submitted on _____ are not acceptable, because said amendments do not comply with ☐ Article 33 of the Patent Law.
☐ Rule 51 of the Implementing Regulations of the Patent Law.
The specific reasons why the amendments are not allowable are set forth in the text portion of this Notification.
4. ☒ Examination as to substance was directed to the initial application documents as filed.
☐ Examination as to substance was directed to the documents as specified below:
claims _____, pages _____ of the description and drawings _____ filed on the date of filing,
claims _____, pages _____ of the description and drawings _____ submitted on _____,
claims _____, pages _____ of the description and drawings _____ submitted on _____,
and the abstract submitted on _____.
5. ☐ This Notification is issued without search reports.
☒ This Notification is issued with consideration of the search results.
☒ Below is/are the reference document(s) cited in this Office Action(the reference number(s) will be used throughout the examination procedure):

No.	Number(s) or Title(s) of Reference(s)	Date of Publication (or the filing date of conflicting application)
1	CN1164052A, i.e. JP067796/95 and JP064105/96	Date: <u>5</u> Month: <u>11</u> Year: <u>1997</u>
2		Date: ___ Month: ___ Year: ____
3		Date: ___ Month: ___ Year: ____
4		Date: ___ Month: ___ Year: ____
5		Date: ___ Month: ___ Year: ____

6. Conclusions of the Action:

☐ On the Specification:

- ☐ The subject matter contained in the application is not patentable under Article 5 of the Patent Law.
- ☐ The description does not comply with Article 26 paragraph 3 of the Patent Law.
- ☐ The draft of the description does not comply with Rule 18 of the Implementing Regulations.

☒ On the Claims:

- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are not patentable under Article 25 of the Patent Law.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ does/do not comply with the definition of inventions prescribed by Rule 2 paragraph 1 of the Implementing Regulations.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 15-25, 32-42 does/do not possess the novelty as required by Article 22 paragraph 2 of the Patent Law.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ does/do not possess the inventiveness as required by Article 22 paragraph 3 of the Patent Law.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ does/do not possess the practical applicability as required by Article 22 paragraph 4 of the Patent Law.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ does/do not comply with Article 26 paragraph 4 of the Patent Law.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ does/do not comply with Article 31 paragraph 1 of the Patent Law.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 does/do not comply with the provisions of Rules 20-23 of the Implementing Regulations.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ does/do not comply with Article 9 of the Patent Law.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ does/do not comply with the provisions of Rule 12 paragraph 1 of the Implementing Regulations.

7. In view of the conclusions set forth above, the Examiner is of the opinion that:

- ☐ The applicant should make amendments as directed in the text portion of the Notification.
- ☒ The applicant should expound in the response reasons why the application is patentable and make amendments to the application where there are deficiencies as pointed out in the text portion of the Notification, otherwise, the application will not be allowed.
- ☐ The application contains no allowable invention, and therefore, if the applicant fails to submit sufficient reasons to prove that the application does have merits, it will be rejected.
- ☐

8. The followings should be taken into consideration by the applicant in making the response:

- (1) Under Article 37 of the Patent Law, the applicant should respond to the office action within 4 months counting from the date of receipt of the Notification. If, without any justified reason, the time limit is not met, the application shall be deemed to have been withdrawn.
- (2) Any amendments to the application should be in conformity with the provisions of Article 33 of the Patent Law. Substitution pages should be in duplicate and the format of the substitution should be in conformity with the relevant provision contained in "The Examination Guidelines".
- (3) The response to the Notification and/or revision of the application should be mailed to or handed over to the "Reception Division" of the Patent Office, and documents not mailed or handed over to the Reception Divisions have no legal effect.
- (4) Without an appointment, the applicant and/or his agent shall not interview with the Examiner in the Patent Office.

9. This Notification contains a text portion of 1 pages and the following attachments:

- ☒ 1 cited reference(s), totaling 84 pages. ☐

Examination Dept. 5

Examiner: H. Ch. ZHANG

Seal of the Examination Department

THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE FIRST OFFICE ACTION

As stated in the description of the patent application, the present invention relates to a driving force transmission mechanism, image forming apparatus equipped with such a mechanism, and process unit of such an apparatus. After examination, the examiner's comments are as follows.

1. The claims 1-11, 15-25, 32-42 lack the novelty as required by Article 22(2) of the Chinese Patent Law. An image forming apparatus is disclosed in Reference 1 (CN1164052A, i.e. JP067796/95 and JP064105/96), see the detailed description of the preferred embodiments of the Reference 1. With respect to the technical solutions disclosed in Reference 1, all the features of the claims 1-11, 15-25, 32-42 of the present invention are disclosed in the Reference 1, resulting in the claims 1-11, 15-25, 32-42 of the present invention each lacking the required novelty over the Reference 1.

2. The reference numbers are required to be added behind every terms of the claims, so as to make the technical solutions of the claims easy to be understood.

Owing to the above-mentioned reasons, the present application cannot be allowed according to the present text. The applicant should make a response to this office action before the due time to overcome all of the problems raised herein, expound why this application is patentable over Reference 1, and pay attention that the amendments to the application should comply with Article 33 of the Chinese Patent Law, and cannot go beyond the scope of the disclosure contained in the originally filed description and claims.